

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

January 12, 2023

There will be no solid waste collection on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16, 2023. Monday's routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Please have your tipper carts roadside by 6:00 a.m. for collection.

Dates to Remember

January 16, 2023 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – City Offices Closed

January 17, 2023 – Special Magistrate Hearing

January 19, 2023 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

January 23, 2023 – City Commission Meeting

January 30, 2023 – City Commission Workshop

Office of the City Manager

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

In keeping with a standard practice of providing an end-of-year assessment and New Year's prognosis, management prepared and presented its annual **"State of the City"** report at the December 19, 2022, City Commission Biennial Organizational meeting. This document is intended to provide an administrative perspective on 2022 progress made and a view of expectations for 2023. Since 2019, management has maintained a standard of weekly updates to the Commission, but a periodic collective assessment and reflection is believed to be a worthwhile complimentary effort. The full report can be accessed by the following link: https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/documents/1673530458_9952.pdf. Interested parties are encouraged to review the report to track efforts to progressively benefit the Clewiston community.

As 2022 proved, Clewiston, Florida is susceptible to the threat of significant weather events. Of primary importance during such periods is the provision of essential city services by local governments charged with that responsibility. The City of Clewiston and its dedicated staff in all functions takes this responsibility very seriously. In responding to the impacts locally of Hurricane Ian this past year, the city staff performed admirably in this regard based upon feedback received from the community. Management was pleased with all department efforts to maintain services during and after the storm. Occasionally, the efforts of city staff receive third party recognition for their specific roles which I am proud to report is the case with the city's electric utility department. This week, the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) announced its 2022 "Restoring Communities Awards" which recognize public power utilities that provide exemplary service to their customers or to peer utility systems in the form of mutual aid during and following significant weather events such as Hurricane Ian's visit to this region of Florida. Clewiston and its electric utility staff are among twenty-five Florida public power utilities honored for their

efforts to restore power quickly and safely this past year. The press release detailing this auspicious award can be accessed by the following link: https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/documents/1673385871_87874.pdf.

In closing, I express my sincere hope that each of you had a blessed Christmas holiday season and wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year!

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston.

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Recreation & Leisure Services Director Lauren McGinnis reports:

- The 1st Annual Tree Lighting Festival was a huge success! We would like to thank everyone in the community for their support and feedback. We are already planning next year's event! If you have pictures that you would like to share please tag us on Facebook or email them to us. We love seeing you and your family enjoying our parks and events.



- We have upgraded our facility rental process to make it fully digital. This includes a new information sheet that will help us prepare a more accurate quote, and help us find the facility that will best serve you for your event. If you have questions please feel free to call us! Our facilities are booking quickly for the 2023 year, with many dates now having a waiting list! Don't wait, if you are thinking about hosting an event at one of our facilities or parks give us a call today.
- We are currently working on renovating our parks! You will see us out painting and cleaning so that you have a beautiful area to enjoy with your families. If you see something

that needs repair, please let us know. If you have any pictures you would like to share please tag us on facebook or email them to us.

- Our hours for students are 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM Monday – Thursday and 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM on Friday. We invite all of our youth to come and enjoy all of the board games, books, xbox game systems, and 3D printers at the Youth Center every day after school. Our 3D printer runs each Thursday. If you would like to be a part of our 3D print club and/or volunteer for the club please call us to find out how. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our clubs and activities here at the Youth Center. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering please call us at 983-1492 to find out how you can get involved.
- As the spring semester gets going, remember we do have testing prep books here and offer quiet time and peer help for students who would like it. Come in to find out more information on dates and times. Does your student need volunteer hours for scholarships? If they do give us a call. We have opportunities for students to earn hours!
- Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date information on all events and activities going on at the Youth Center.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Library staff provided ready reference/computer assistance, circulation activities, and patron programming to 1,257 patrons this month.
- This month's programming activities have included:
 - The Adult Book Club met on December 5th to discuss "*The Smallest Tadpole's War in the Land of Mysterious*" written by Diana Swearingen and "*One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd*" written by Jim Fergus. There were a total of 10 participants.
 - Craft Corner Pom Monster was held on Thursday, December 7th with a total of 20 participants.
 - Video Game Club was held every Tuesday with a total of 48 participants. Make sure to swing by the library and join the fun!
 - LEGO Builders Club was held on Thursday, December 15th with a total of 18 builders. This month's challenge was to build a winter wonderland. Congrats to Dalilah for winning the challenge.
 - Thank you to everyone who came to the Mistletoe Magic Show and Storytime with Santa & Mrs. Claus. We had a wonderful time and lots of laughter. We would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Michael Eaton and Jim Chartier for providing an incredible event for our community.
 - AWE Learning Stations were accessed and used by a total of 46 children. The AWE learning computer will allow young children the ability to learn about Literacy, Math, Science & Nature, Art & Music, and Writing & Computer Skills. Make sure to stop by and let the kids try it out!
 - There were 40 participants who completed December's scavenger hunt challenge. Be sure to check out the new theme and find what's hidden around the library.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- **Scavenger Hunt:** We have polar bears lost in our library and could use some help finding them! Stop by anytime from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. starting Thursday, January 5th until Tuesday, January 31st for the Polar Bear Scavenger Hunt!
- **LEGO Builders Club:** LEGO Club meets again on Thursday, January 12th at 3:30 p.m. Children of all ages are welcome to drop by the library and build fantastic creations!
- **Afterschool Snack Decorating:** Join the fun on Wednesday, January 18th at 3:30 p.m. for snack decorating. Please call the library or email library@clewiston-fl.gov to register. Children ages 6-12. This program is designed for children and accompanying adults.
- **Friends of the Clewiston Library Meeting:** There will be another meeting of our Friends of the Clewiston Library group on Wednesday, January 18th at 4:15 at the library. This is in preparation for Sugar Festival. Please join us as we raise funds to support programming at our library.
- **Anime Club**
 - **In-Person (Open to 6th-12th graders):** Anime Club meets every Friday from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. Come hang out and chat with other Anime fans. We will be watching anime provided courtesy of Crunchyroll and talking about your favorite manga.
 - **Via Zoom:** We invite tweens and teens to join us every Monday at 3:30 p.m. To register, email library@clewiston-fl.gov to receive Zoom log-in information. If you are under 18, please be sure to have a guardian's permission to participate in this online event.
- **Video Game Club:** You don't want to miss this! Stop in at 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday for video games. We have Super Smash Bro's, Mario Kart, Minecraft, Animal Crossing and the Oculus Quest! Open to all skill levels. Children ages 7 and up. Walk-ins welcome, but registering is always encouraged for better preparation.
- **Book Club:** Come join the fun at our next TWO meetings: Monday, January 30th at 2:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to discuss the newest book club title, "*The Magnolia Palace*" by Fiona Davis. With lively discussions, this group truly enjoys their meetings as they exchange their thoughts about each new title. New readers are always welcome.
- **New Library Hours:**
 - Monday:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday:** 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - Thursday:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Friday:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) and Area Agency on Aging-Southwest Florida will be hosting virtual classes for anyone interested in learning more about Medicare! To register for upcoming webinars, email library@clewiston-fl.gov or call 863-983-1493.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library offers a classroom and computer lab with a total of 16 computers for use. For more information or to secure the room, please stop in or call the library at any time.
- If you have not done so already, please join our Facebook page (Clewiston Public Library) in order to remain up to date on the library's events and programs.

- Please stop by the library to pick up a calendar with a list of events and programs so you can join in on the fun.

Recap of Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday, January 5th**
 - Scavenger Hunt
- **Friday, January 6th**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 9th**
 - Anime Club Via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 10th**
 - Video Game Club at 4:45 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 12th**
 - LEGO Builders Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Friday, January 13th**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 16th**
 - CLOSED for Martin Luther King Jr.
- **Tuesday, January 17th**
 - Video Game Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 18th**
 - Snack Decorating at 3:30 p.m.
 - Friends of the Library Meeting at 4:15 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 19th**
 - Medicare 101 (with Medicare part B enrollment Demonstration) Via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- **Friday, January 20th**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 23rd**
 - Anime Club Via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 24th**
 - What's New for Medicare in 2023 Via Zoom at 12:00 p.m.
 - Video game Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Friday, January 27th**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
 - Game Club at 1:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 31st**
 - Medicare Part C + Medicare Advantage open Enrollment Period Via Zoom at 12:00 p.m.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what's going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston Website. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.

- Rates have changed for the Season for Non-members \$45.00 Plus Tax 18 Holes and \$22.50 Plus Tax for 9 Holes.
- Group Rates are available and we run a Monday Special after 12pm. Call the golf shop for more information.
- Walking is permitted all day.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am. Carts are due in at 5:30pm daily. The golf course is open 7 days a week.
- Advertise a Tee Sign out on the golf course. If you are interested in advertising your business at the golf course call 863-983-1448.
- The Driving Range has a new token machine now. Get your tokens in the golf shop.
- Golf lessons and Club Repair are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course can supply all your golfing needs. You can inquire in the golf shop for whatever merchandise you need.
- Ladies Day - 8:30am Tuesday's
- Senior Men's Group - 9:00am Tuesday's and Friday's
- Men's Group - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call golf shop for times.
- Upcoming Tournaments:
 - HCSO Brian Haas Memorial Tournament - January 14, 2023
 - Clewiston Women's Golf Association Rally for a Cure Tournament - February 25, 2023
 - V.F.W. LaBelle Post 10100 Tournament - March 11, 2023

For more information call the golf shop 863-983-1448

Community Development Director/Fire Chief Travis Reese reports:

- Big Lots has received their Certificate of Occupancy and will be opening for business on Thursday, January 12, 2023.



- Fire Department would like to remind people that it is that time of year when we frequently have foggy and smoky road environments. Please drive with caution if you find yourself in these conditions. Fog creates dangerous driving conditions, reduces visibility, makes it hard to

spot hazards, and it becomes difficult for drivers to judge distances. Never use your high beam headlights, using high beam headlights causes glare, which makes it more difficult to see what's ahead of you on the road. Leave plenty of distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you to account for sudden stops or changes in the traffic pattern.

Code Compliance Supervisor Debbie Clay reports:

CITY OF CLEWISTON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

TEN COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS



COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS

1. YARD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintenance of yards and swales/rights-of-way abutting property are the responsibility of the property owner. The right-of-way must be free of obstructions caused by trees, vegetation, or other objects.

2. INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLES

Inoperative and/or derelict vehicles are not permitted. A vehicle is considered inoperative if a current tag isn't displayed and/or it is not fully equipped to legally and safely operate on public streets.

3. JUNK, TRASH AND DEBRIS

Junk, auto parts, furniture, trash, tires, building materials, tree trimmings, and any other debris cannot be left in the yard and must be properly disposed of.

4. PARKING

Parking is permitted for passenger cars and motorcycles in residential properties only on a legal driveway or in a garage.

5. COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT

Commercial equipment and vehicles cannot be parked or stored in a residential area unless they are in a fully enclosed structure.

6. MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURES

Exterior building structures and walls shall be maintained in a secure and attractive manner.

7. CONDITION OF STRUCTURES

Any wood, siding, shingles, roof covering, railings, fences, walls, ceilings, porches, doors, windows, screens, and other exterior parts of a structure must be maintained in weather tight, rodent proof, sound condition and in good repair. An owner may need to board up a vacant structure.

8. OUTDOOR STORAGE

Outdoor storage is prohibited. You may not keep indoor furniture, household appliances, auto parts, building materials, or any other similar items outside.

9. ILLEGAL DWELLING UNITS

Dwelling units added to interior/exterior of a structure without proper permits are illegal regardless of how long they have existed.

10. PROHIBITED BUSINESSES

Most businesses are not allowed to operate in residential areas. Engaging in a business requires a Business Tax Receipt and zoning approval.

The complete City of Clewiston Ordinances is available online and may be accessed utilizing the City of Clewiston website: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/> or Municode Library website: https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances

If you have any questions about how to achieve/maintain compliance with these or any other City of Clewiston Ordinances you may contact our office at 863-983-1454 extension 309 or Code Compliance Supervisor: debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov.

**Police Chief Tom Lewis reports:
Police Department**

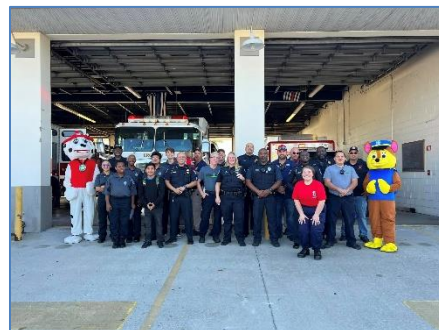
"That's not my job" is something that you will never hear at the Clewiston Police Department. On



December 7, 2022, when a citizen with limited sight needed help with her trees, Chief Lewis and Commander Nieves joined the staff at Hendry County Emergency Management, grabbed some chainsaws, and took care of business. This is another reason we are Americas Sweetest Town - neighbors taking care of neighbors!

On December 10, 2022, the police department held our annual *Shop With a Cop* event at the Clewiston Walmart. The event was a huge success and reached more than 20 local kids. Thank you to our local Clewiston Walmart, US Sugar, Clewiston Fire Department, Hendry County EMS, our Police Explorers, Clewiston High School Public Safety Academy, and all of our donors.

You can see a videoed arrival of police cars, fire engines, and EMS ambulances as well as pictures of all the kids shopping on our Facebook at www.facebook.com/clewistonpolice



On December 13, 2022, the police department launched a new crime prevention initiative, LIGHT-



UP CLEWISTON! The department received a large supply of solar powered LED motion-sensor floodlights (like the one seen here), free of charge, from Hendry County Emergency Management. As folks know, lighting is one of the best crime prevention tools to have as a home owner, as it deters would-be thieves and burglars. The department offered while supplies lasted, for any city

resident to come to the lobby of the police department and get a free light for their home. What a great community partnership to deter any opportunistic thieves.

On December 23, 2022, the police department hosted Santa Claus. He nestled into our lobby as members of the public came to take family photos. In addition, more than 400 kids received a free gift. We would like to thank everyone who donated a gift and supported this community outreach effort.



SAVE THE DATE. On January 26, 2023, Chief Lewis will be hosted by First Bank and the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce for our Coffee with the Chief program. The program is a way for the public to get an inside look at the police department and animal services operations and get answers directly from the Chief on any topic or concern. And of course, the presentation will include giving away a dozen coffee mugs as folks hear about how their money is being spent and what the vision for the police department's future looks like.



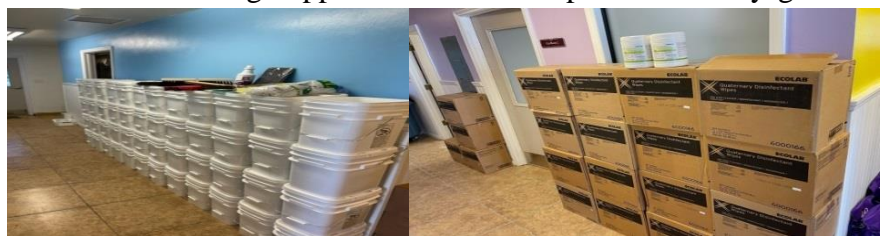
Animal Services

In the month of December 2022, Animal Services reported the intake of 27 cats and 52 dogs.

Thank you to our partners at Hendry County Emergency Management!



They coordinated and delivered 100 bags of dog food and a massive amount of cleaning supplies and hand soap. We are very grateful.



Highlighted Training

Beginning December 5, 2022, Sergeant Tom Levins attended the second of a three-week FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute series. This week was hosted by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office in Titusville, Florida. During the week, topics are based on credibility, command discipline and liability, dealing with problem employees, and leading change within an organization.



During the week of December 5, 2022, Officer Estiverne, Officer Garza and Officer Mixon completed the Advance Report Writing and Review course. This course was offered tuition-free to the department and was hosted in Fort Myers, Florida by the Southwest Florida Public Safety Academy.

Beginning December 12, 2022, Detective Williams and Officer Rebecca Myers attended the Florida ICAC Training Symposium. The Clewiston Police Department is an active taskforce member dedicating resources to ensure that our local kids stay safe. This training keeps our staff updated in the current trends affecting the nation when it comes to internet crimes involving children.



Beginning December 13, 2022, Sergeant Tom Levins attended a two-day course in Fort Myers, Florida on Managing the Property and Evidence Room. The training was hosted by International Public Safety Council and will better prepare the agency to evolve with current best practices and be exposed to new management technology.

On December 14, 2022, agency members were certified on the Hendry County Gun Range in our newly purchased shotguns as well as our newly purchased pepper spray. This is the first time, in



many years, that these options have been deployed on patrol. Not only will this increase officer safety, but the deployment of the pepper spray product will add to the ability to de-escalate situations, thus creating enhanced safety for the entire community. A huge thank you to Sheriff



Whidden for hosting us. He continues to be a great partner of the

police department.

General Services Director Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities:**
 - repaired underground service on Trinidad Avenue,
 - disconnected service for contractor at Clewiston High School,
 - installed new ladder box on the bucket truck,
 - installed underground pipe in fairgrounds trailer park to replace old services,
 - removed vegetation from power lines,
 - repaired street lights,
 - repaired tennis court lighting,
 - investigated power surges caused by bad breakers at two residences,
 - helped water department make repair to water line,
 - set pole, built transformer bank and ran service on Francisco Street,
 - repair downed line going to wastewater treatment plant,
 - repaired electric conduit to lift station at high school.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
 - Pumped down lift station at Clewiston golf course,

- repaired 2" water line break on E Haiti Street,
- replaced water filters on Della Tobias Avenue,
- reset pump and reconnected to riser at the high school lift station,
- repaired 4" water main break on Della Tobias Avenue,
- repaired water leak at the meter on E Del Monte Avenue,
- surveyed water meter box sizes for upcoming AMI meter installations,
- repaired water leak at East Sagamore Avenue,
- replaced and elevated manhole at the Martin Marina,
- replaced 3" PVC to riser at elementary school,
- provisioned AMI 4" water meter at Clewiston High School,
- checked for water leak at the nursing home,
- checked lift stations,
- repaired 2" galvanized water line, Alverde and Central Avenue,
- pumped down ball field lift station,
- filled in hole from 4" water break on Della Tobias Avenue,
- **Customer Service Department**
 - Your Utility partners with customers to bring renewable power to the electric grid. If you'd like to learn more about net metering, please visit the FTC consumer information site at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0532-solar-power-your-home>.
 - Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
 - If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or attic insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you more information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
 - *IT'S LIGHTNING SEASON!* Don't forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection! Visit our office today.
 - **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.
- **Facility Maintenance:**
 - Staff helped to store Christmas decorations after the holiday season.
 - Staff also:
 - completed three air conditioning repairs,
 - made minor plumbing repairs at the Animal Control facility,
 - repaired Golf Course Pro shop ice machine,
 - removed a desk from the Utilities office,
 - made minor electrical repairs on Bond Street for the Christmas lights,
 - repaired the pressure washer at the Public Works wash bay,
 - closed the east floating dock at the boat basin for temporary repairs,
 - repaired the ice machine for the Electric Department,
 - repaired the Golf Course sign,
 - replaced the water heater at the Clewiston Library,
 - repaired the roof at the Trinidad Park pavilion,

- sealed a roof leak at City Hall,
- replaced the dishwasher at the Animal Control facility,
- began replacing A/C filters in all City building units.
- **Street Division:**
 - Staff continues to maintain all of our street signs throughout town and continues to collect shopping carts and return them to the business of origin.
 - The pot hole battle is ongoing, while we also remove trash debris piles and palm fronds from our city streets.
 - Vegetation around our Distribution Substation and our Mosquito monitoring stations was mowed.
 - Staff assisted with set up and take down, and unloaded the turkeys at the John Boy Auditorium that were donated by USSC to be distributed at our annual Christmas luncheon,
 - Staff helped the Water Department remove trees above water lines so that they could access a break and make repairs,
 - We are operating our street sweeper to remove debris from getting into our storm drain system.
- **Solid Waste:**
 - Now that the Clewiston transfer station is operational, our solid waste collection routes are completed faster and there is less wear and tear on our equipment.
 - Staff distributed roll off construction bins at collection points for Christmas debris.
 - Staff continues to pick up large debris piles from residents homes and pick up charges are being assessed.
 - We experimented with new routes to expedite collection, but found that the regular times and dates were the most efficient.
 - **Special Note:** All residents must have their tipper carts road side for collection on day of service by 6:00 a.m.
- **Ball Fields:**
 - AYSO Youth soccer is ongoing and we are ensuring that our fields are safe.
 - Staff is getting the equipment ready and truckloads of new clay were brought in for the upcoming Clewiston High School Baseball and Softball seasons.
- **Parks & Recreation:**
 - Park equipment is maintained for safe usage by all of our residents at all times,
 - the John Boy Auditorium is kept ready for events and repairs are made as needed,
 - Staff assisted with the Chamber Social dinner set up and take down, and helped to set up for the annual Wreaths Across America event at Ridgelawn Cemetery.
 - Staff pressure washed the Gazebos at Sweetest Town Playground
- **Central Garage:**
 - Fleet vehicles are kept operational, despite current supply chain difficulties.
 - Performed emergency generator maintenance to ensure our generators are ready for service.